



Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission **Annual Report 2013**



Bay Restoration Plan

The comprehensive plan of action for protecting and restoring Santa Monica Bay, known as the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP), was approved by the State of California and the U.S. EPA in 1995 and updated in 2008 and 2013. The BRP includes goals, objectives, and milestones that guide SMBRC restoration programs and projects in three priority areas: water quality, natural resources, and benefits and values to humans. The BRP also identifies the responsible lead and partner entities, and the roles of the SMBRC in supporting, promoting, and implementing Bay restoration work.

Actions identified in the BRP have improved the environmental quality of the Bay, effectively and efficiently, but full recovery of the Bay is far from certain. Steady and long-term efforts along with consistent funding are necessary to ensure that we realize the BRP's goal of a healthy and restored Santa Monica Bay.

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) is a non-regulatory, locally-based state entity established by an act of the California Legislature in 2002. The SMBRC is charged with overseeing and promoting the Bay Restoration Plan by securing and leveraging funding to put solutions into action, building public-private partnerships, promoting cutting-edge research and technology, facilitating stakeholder-driven consensus processes, and raising public awareness.

The SMBRC brings together local, state, and federal agencies, environmental groups, businesses, scientists, and members of the public on its 36-member Governing Board. The SMBRC is also supported by a Technical Advisory Committee, and a broad stakeholder body, the Watershed Advisory Council. The SMBRC, along with its non-profit partner, The Bay Foundation, is a member of the U.S. EPA's National Estuary Program. (www.smbrc.ca.gov)



SMBRC team surveys for benthic invertebrates in the tidal channels of the Ballona Wetlands.

The Bay Foundation

The Bay Foundation (TBF) is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1990. The purpose of the Foundation is to contribute to the restoration and enhancement of the Santa Monica Bay and other coastal waters and to complement the work of the SMBRC, with a focus on obtaining and expending funds not otherwise available to the SMBRC. (www.santamonica.org)

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

2013 was a year of celebration, reflection, and renewal. It was the year that marked the 25th anniversary of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP), and we celebrated with a wonderful anniversary event last October to honor our accomplishments and our supporters, including many who helped to blaze the trail 25 years ago. All guests echoed what a long and rewarding journey it's been thus far.

The reflection on our past blended this year with our collective aspirations for a healthy Bay, as we engaged dozens of stakeholders in a community process to update our Bay Restoration Plan. Together we examined our milestones and emerging challenges, articulated our vision for clean water, vibrant communities and a healthy economy, and created a new blueprint for our journey in the coming decade.

In 2013 we celebrated the opening of the restored Malibu Lagoon, one of the crown jewels of coastal wetlands in Southern California. It is hard to express in words the emotions of all who worked so hard to make this happen. We traveled a very long and difficult road to restoring a healthy Lagoon, and learned a lot along the way. The ongoing science and education work at the lagoon are growing the support and expertise for healing our wetlands statewide, and lessons from Malibu Lagoon will help us to meet the technical and communication challenges of future restoration projects. Above all, there is nothing more gratifying and convincing than seeing the plants and animals returning to and thriving in their newly rehabilitated home in the Lagoon.

While we celebrate, we also pause and acknowledge that a lot of these achievements would not be possible without the congressional action that established the National Estuary Program more than 25 years ago and the continued authorization of federal funding that allows our program to endure. We were shaken in 2013 as federal NEP funding became the latest victim of federal government gridlock and sequestration and our core budget was reduced substantially. As Chair of the Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP), I am working hard to fight for more federal funding for our estuary programs. At the same time, here at home, we boosted our efforts to raise funds locally and had a successful year. The supportive response we received for this new endeavor from our stakeholders was wonderful.

Looking ahead, it is going to be another busy and rewarding year. We have a very full plate including our on-going, high-profile work on restoring Ballona Wetlands and rocky reef kelp forests. We also look forward to new areas and projects, especially working with cities to address strategies for coping with potential impacts of climate change. 2013 was also a turning point in our outreach as we significantly increased our public presence through traditional (newspaper, radio, online) and social media. We look forward to more growth in this area, so expect to hear from us even more in 2014. As always, thank you so much for your support for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and The Bay Foundation.

Sincerely,



Shelley Luce, D. Env. - Executive Director

Wetlands and Coastal Habitats

Ballona Wetlands Restoration EIR - A multi-year program with Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and State Coastal Conservancy partners, to prepare technical studies, engineering plans, CEQA/NEPA documents and permit applications (which began in summer 2012) for this significant regional wetland restoration project. Ongoing.

Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Monitoring - A long-term comprehensive monitoring program evaluating the condition of the pre-restoration wetlands and adjacent habitats through biological, physical, and chemical surveys to inform the restoration process and collect baseline data. Ongoing.

Malibu Lagoon Restoration - Implementation of the construction phase of the Lagoon Restoration Project through removing excess sediment, re-contouring the western channels to improve water flows, and replacing invasive plants with native vegetation. Completed.

Malibu Lagoon Monitoring - A long-term comprehensive monitoring program in partnership with State Parks evaluating the condition of the post-restoration wetlands to the project goals through biological, physical, and chemical surveys. Ongoing.

Arroyo Sequit Creek Restoration - A Proposition 50 grant-funded project that removes two Arizona crossings and one check dam to improve southern steelhead trout habitat. Ongoing.

Rindge Dam Removal Study - Partnering with State Parks, Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies to assess the feasibility of restoring and enhancing the Malibu Creek ecosystem through the removal of Rindge Dam. Ongoing.

Stone Creek Restoration - A monthly community restoration and education program on this tributary to Ballona Creek, working with UCLA and an adjacent elementary school. Ongoing.

New Zealand Mudsnail Survey - An annual survey of New Zealand mudsnails, tracking this invasive species in streams throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. Ongoing.

Coordinated Monitoring Program for Southern California Estuarine Wetlands - Partnering with EPA Wetlands Program to develop and expand a site-specific, coordinated monitoring program for Southern California estuarine wetlands. Ongoing.

Green Neighborhoods

Proposition 84 Grant Program - Manhattan Beach Green Belt Park Storm Water Infiltration (completed), City of Torrance Storm Water Basin Enhancement, City of Inglewood Catch Basin Trash Capture, City of Los Angeles University Park Rain Gardens, City of Santa Monica In-line Storm Drain Treatment and Infiltration Pilot Project, City of Calabasas Catch Basin Trash Inserts, County of Los Angeles Oxford Basin Enhancement. Ongoing.

Prop 50 Grant Program - City of Culver City Citywide BMP Treatment Train. Ongoing.

Proposition 12 Grant Program - Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Abalone Cove Beach Bluff Restoration. On-going.

Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program - Partnering with watershed cities to certify restaurants that comply with storm water permit requirements and the Program's additional pollution prevention practices. Ongoing and expanding.

Ocean

Kelp Forest Restoration - Partnering with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, Vantuna Research Group, commercial sea urchin fishermen, and California Science Center on kelp forest restoration off of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Ongoing.

Socio-economic Research Related to Marine Spatial Planning - Mapping the location, type, and activity of boats along the Southern California coast to track boater responses to the establishment of the Marine Protected Area network. Ongoing.

MPA Outreach - Continued outreach efforts including meeting with resource agencies and NGOs to facilitate progress in MPA enforcement and monitoring. Ongoing.

Green Abalone Genetic Study - Partnering with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fishery Service and several local research institutions and groups to define the population structure of green abalone in Southern California and inform restoration plans for the species. Completed.

Green Abalone Reintroduction Pilot Project - Refined methodologies and acquired permission to reintroduce dense assemblages of green abalone off of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Ongoing.

Eelgrass Restoration - Partnering with NMFS, SCCWRP, and others to plan survey, assessment, and restoration of offshore eelgrass bed(s) in Santa Monica Bay. Ongoing.



Staff checks in volunteers for 9th Annual Marina del Rey Kayak Coastal Cleanup Day Event.

Sustainable Local Fisheries - Partnering with CSU Dominguez Hills and local commercial fishermen to build resilient fishing communities based on sustainably caught local seafood. Ongoing.

Halibut Study - Partnering with Marina Del Rey Anglers and Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop better data on halibut in Santa Monica Bay to improve management of this species. Ongoing.

Outreach

Ballona Wetlands Outreach - A wide variety of outreach activities including Farmer's Markets, nature tours, bird walks, science-in-action activities, educational trainings, social media, and more. Ongoing.

Boater Education Program - A multi-faceted program including

publication of the Southern California Boater's Guide, a statewide Motorized Boater Survey, expanded Honey Pot Day program, and management of the statewide boating education and outreach efforts. Ongoing.

Coastal Clean-up Day - Annual kayak clean-up in Marina del Rey coordinated by The Bay Foundation staff. Ongoing.

Internship Program - Program coordinates student and postgraduate volunteer efforts through multiple restoration and scientific data collection projects. Ongoing.

Urban Coast - A multidisciplinary journal providing a forum for information exchange and highlight research on pressing issues and policies that affect the conditions of urban coastal resources. Ongoing.

Symposium on Coastal Wetland Restoration - Annual symposium focusing on climate change and research in estuarine and adjacent habitats and catering to scientists, agency representatives, elected officials, students, and members of the public. Ongoing.

Palos Verdes Shelf Fish Contamination Education Collaborative - Partnering with EPA, local agencies, and CBOs to educate local fishermen and consumers about the health risks of contaminated seafood. Ongoing.

Planning and Policy Development

Financial Capacity Development - A program to increase The Bay Foundation's cash reserve and diversify funding sources, including annual contributions from Governing Board members. Ongoing.

Habitat Health Index Development - Collaborating with UCLA, SCCWRP, USC, Vantuna Research Group, and Pepperdine University to develop habitat health indices for major habitats in the Bay. Ongoing.

Climate Change Adaptation - A program to facilitate and assist coastal jurisdictions in developing strategies for adapting climate change impacts including sea level rise and storm surge. Initiated.

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan - Participation in the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Process. Ongoing.

Wetland Habitat Valuation - A literature review and development of a wetland mitigation white paper on the value of vegetated coastal marsh in compensatory mitigation for lost subtidal habitat. Ongoing.

Palos Verdes Kelp Restoration Sees Early Results

In July we launched the newest phase of the Palos Verdes Kelp Restoration Project with a new goal to restore 150 acres of kelp forest to the rocky reef systems of the Palos Verdes Shelf. This area has shown a 75% loss of giant kelp based on observations of kelp canopy over 100 years. Much of the loss is due to the formation of urchin barrens, a global phenomenon of an overpopulation of unhealthy, unusable purple sea urchins which have destroyed kelp forests and thereby pushed out almost all other species as well.

The project is led by SMBRC and supported by NOAA, The National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Lands Commission, California State Parks and the professional Sea Urchin Harvesters. This unique collaboration serves as an international example of active coastal management to restore sustainable local fisheries and critical ecosystem services.

The Palos Verdes Kelp Restoration Project is expected to cull 5.5 million purple sea urchins, an estimated 110 metric tons over the next 4 to 5 years. Since July, over 850 hours of diving has resulted in clearing 580,000 sea urchins over 3.1 acres of sea floor. Dozens of new kelp plants in the restored area have reached the surface and are already over 20 feet tall. We have received national attention for this work through radio, print, television and the internet. Our rate of progress is set to expand over the coming years as our restoration and research goals are achieved.

This project grew out of a series of pilot projects off of Malibu and Palos Verdes that demonstrated the successful restoration of giant kelp on reefs that are currently urchin barrens.

This project is especially a win-win for local fisheries and fishing communities. Our research, published in Ecosphere in March 2013, shows that for every unit of kelp forest restored, economic opportunity for commercial sea urchin fishermen goes up by a staggering 883%. Increases in other fishes rise by 250 to 300%.

Giant kelp can grow up to two feet per day and in southern California support a community comprised of 714 species. This rate of growth and production represents some of the highest values in ecological study. As a result, giant kelp ecosystems are globally significant to the sequestration of carbon, helping reduce the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Our ability to restore kelp forests and their inherent high productivity led to the California State Coastal Conservancy to identify the restoration of kelp forests as a mitigation bank for California AB 32 the Global Warming Solutions Act in August 2013.



Giant kelp near the ocean surface, Pt. Vicente State Marine Conservation Area, Palos Verdes.



LA Waterkeeper Volunteer Divers, restoring kelp forest to Golden Cove, Palos Verdes. Photo: © Tom Boyd Images 2013.



Santa Monica Beach looking west, from aerial survey flights studying effects of MPAs.
Photo courtesy of LightHawk.

The Bay Restoration Plan Gets a Recharge

During the last meeting of 2013, our Governing Board approved the 2013 Update of the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP). This approval marks the end of an extensive public process to update the BRP, which began in early 2013 and involved the Governing Board, the Technical Advisory Committee, the Watershed Advisory Council, and other interested stakeholders. Several meetings and workshops were convened to share information, discuss related issues, and receive public input.

The 2013 BRP update also included a check-up - akin to taking out a yardstick and measuring how far we have come in reaching our goals - and showed the remarkable progress we and our partners have made in the five years since our last update: completing a full restoration of Malibu Lagoon, establishing a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Southern California Bight, and constructing storm water infiltration and treatment facilities at Malibu Legacy Park and many other storm water capture and treatment projects.



Completed Malibu Legacy Park project provides multi-benefit stormwater capture.

These are just a few accomplished milestones among many other success stories of which we are all very proud.

Our check-up also revealed areas that warrant a renewed focus, as well as new and emerging issues. The 2013 revised BRP incorporates new approaches and milestones to address remaining and emerging challenges, especially those related to a set of priority issues identified by our stakeholders during the BRP update. These topics include the attainment of state and federal water quality goals; promotion of green infrastructure and a regional funding mechanism for stormwater clean up; wetland, stream, and marine habitat protection and restoration; fishery management and sustainable seafood; management and beneficial use of natural sediment; and climate change adaptation.

The revised BRP reflects the consensus of SMBRC partners on the best approaches and strategies for watershed management. 2013 marked our 25th anniversary, and the celebration of our many accomplishments is complemented by our renewed commitment to further protecting and enhancing Santa Monica Bay.

SMBRC Internship Program Hits the 10,000 Volunteer Hour Mark!

The SMBRC Internship Program welcomes interns and volunteers to work with us on our many projects and activities, conducting real-world, applied scientific research and assessment. In 2013, interns worked with our staff in the Boater Education Program, Rainwater Harvesting Program, Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program, Habitat Restoration Projects (Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, Kelp Forest, Malibu Lagoon, Stone Canyon Creek, and others), and our community outreach events (Farmers' Markets, Nature Tours and more).

Since the Program's inception in 2009, over 150 people have participated, completing over 10,000 volunteer hours across all the projects! Undergraduate and graduate students have completed 60 units of credit across 54 participating Universities (including the Los Angeles area, state, national, and international Universities). Additionally, 25 independent student projects have been facilitated by the SMBRC, each culminating in either a scientific poster presented at a regional conference or a research paper. This experience is invaluable for students and enhances the work of the SMBRC.

Students and volunteers participate in a wide range of scientific survey and restoration procedures first hand, from water quality and vegetation sampling, to invertebrate and mammal surveys, and the application of regional protocols. The comprehensive nature of the internship program allows us to accommodate a diversity of interests, skill levels, and availabilities.

Students also have the opportunity to develop scientific skills in a laboratory setting, while contributing data to address real-world problems. The SMBRC coordinates and leads several training days annually to educate students on monitoring strategies and analytical techniques for water quality, soil, and invertebrate taxonomy. Many of the program hours and independent projects have been achieved in a laboratory setting.

SMBRC and The Bay Foundation are committed to providing exciting learning experiences to students and volunteers. Our growing community of informed scientists and general public contributes to our mission to protect and restore our coastal environment.



SMBRC offers interns real-world experience through on-site surveys.



Interns process and sort through collected data in a university laboratory setting.

Stakeholders Celebrate Malibu Lagoon Grand Opening

On Friday, May 3rd, 2013, California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), with project partners State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDMM), and, of course, SMBRC, welcomed 250 cheering supporters to the official opening of the restored Malibu Lagoon!

Speakers included State Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Senator Fran Pavley, Susan Nissman, Sr. Field Deputy for LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, and Mark Gold of UCLA, along with project partners Suzanne Goode of DPR, and Sam Schuchat, SCC Executive Officer. In lieu of a ribbon cutting, Senator Pavley led a 'kelp-cutting' to formally open the Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Project.

The Lagoon Grand Opening was the culmination of a decade of planning and many months of physical labor. We celebrated the transformation of the once-degraded lagoon into a healthy habitat for fish and wildlife, and a more welcoming and beautiful park with trails, shady picnic spots, outdoor classrooms, natural bird blinds, and other amenities.

As part of the enhancement, over 75,000 plants, of more than 50 native species, were planted and the vegetation is flourishing. In addition to the agency staff, we thank our volunteers for the thousands of



Senator Pavley and Assemblymember Bloom lead Malibu Lagoon grand opening "kelp-cutting".

hours they spent planting and weeding the newly restored habitats. The new Lagoon is healthy and thriving, with birds, fish and aquatic invertebrates - including sensitive species like least terns - returning in greater numbers than ever before. SMBRC, TBF and our partners are now collecting data and tending new plants as part of the lagoon long-term monitoring plan.

What's Below Your Feet is Preventing Pollution

In February 2013, The City of Manhattan Beach completed construction on an SMBRC-funded project to clean up local waters. The City took advantage of its popular greenbelt to capture urban runoff, while preserving the recreational benefits of the greenbelt as a jogging and walking path. In April 2010, Manhattan Beach was awarded \$500,000 towards the \$778,000 project through the *Santa Monica Bay Restoration Proposition 84 Grant Program* to help meet pollution reduction targets established by the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria (SMBBB) regulations. The project captures and infiltrates dry-weather and wet-weather runoff from a 55-acre urban watershed, while increasing groundwater recharge, which conserves water.

Preliminary results from post-project water quality monitoring are encouraging:

- All dry-weather flows were infiltrated, resulting in a 100% load reduction in indicator bacteria to the storm drain system.



Manhattan Beach Greenbelt project (before and after) infiltrates urban runoff.



- Although only two wet-weather events occurred during the monitoring period, a combined 86% bacteria load reduction was achieved.
- Additionally, there have been no dry- or wet-weather bacteria exceedances of the SBBBB pollutant regulations since the project went on-line.

The City of Manhattan Beach is considering similar pollution reduction projects along the greenbelt and coast that will help protect the health of the Bay and its users.

25th Anniversary Celebration Includes New Name and Logo: The Bay Foundation

For the first time in our collective 25 years, we held a celebration to honor our accomplishments and those who helped us achieve them. The 25th Anniversary Gala celebration of our work protecting and enhancing Santa Monica Bay was held at the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica on October 17th. Over 200 guests joined us, including elected officials, academics, government agencies, businesses, non-profits and more.

The event also launched the new name and logo—The Bay Foundation—for the non-profit partner of the SMBRC. The Bay Foundation (TBF) President Laurie Newman noted that the new name and logo are timely as TBF's community presence grows, and they reflect our collaborative, watershed-wide approach.

Sheila Kuehl, who authored the legislation that created SMBRC in 2002, emceed the program, introducing everyone to the evening's honorees.

First was Former U.S. Rep. Mel Levine, honored for attaining recognition of the Santa Monica Bay in 1987—then one of the country's most polluted—as a National Estuary Program and eligible for annual federal funds, thereby founding our unique, collaborative program. His award was presented by Fran Diamond, a member of the L.A. Regional Water Quality Control Board and TBF Board of Directors.

Next honoree was Senator Fran Pavley, a longtime member of SMBRC, who serves as Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, and

has made the environment a key issue and has strongly supported SMBRC and TBF efforts.

David Nahai was the third honoree, introduced by City of L.A. Councilman Paul Koretz. The former chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Control Board and former head of the LADWP, Mr. Nahai has been a visionary leader and staunch supporter of SMBRC and TBF for many years.

Suzanne Goode, Senior Environmental Scientist for CA Department of Parks and Recreation, was presented with the first-ever Urban Coast Environmental Hero Award. Presenting the award, Executive Director Shelley Luce noted Goode's years of dedication to protecting and restoring the wetlands and other habitats of the Santa Monica Bay watershed.

We are honored to work with so many dedicated people and we look forward to many more years of partnership and progress!



Honorees Mel Levine, Senator Fran Pavley, and David Nahai with SMBRC's Shelley Luce.

2013 Urban Estuaries Symposium Features Climate Change

We know the climate is changing, but we don't yet know for certain what those changes will bring. The timing and severity of the effects, as well as possible solutions, need to be studied, especially in relation to our vulnerable coastal communities and habitats. SMBRC and our partners agree that it is vital to incorporate data and modeling of potential climate change scenarios into all our planning efforts.

"Climate Change in Urban Estuaries Symposium," the third in our annual symposium series on coastal wetland restoration, was held on Monday, March 25th at Loyola Marymount University with over 170 in attendance. The symposium highlighted research and restoration efforts relating to climate change in wetland projects throughout California. The symposium, co-sponsored by the SMBRC and the Center for Urban Resilience at Loyola Marymount University (LMU), presented research by wetland scientists from throughout California on topics ranging from sea level rise to thermal stress on invertebrate communities to sedimentation, marsh migration, and threats from invading plant species.

At the end of the day, a student poster session provided aspiring future scientists an excellent opportunity to discuss their recent wetland research.

Wetlands are recognized by the public for their ability to combat climate change in a multi-faceted way. They provide slowing and abatement of flood waters, erosion control, increased floodplain capacity, and a high degree of carbon sequestration, once the soils have had time to accumulate plant material.



SMBRC interns showcase their CCUE Symposium poster assessing Ballona Wetlands vegetation and seed germination.

When Nature Calls... at Sea How Boaters Prevent Sewage Pollution

What happens when you're at sea and nature calls? Many vessels have a toilet that diverts waste into a holding tank, and if not properly secured, can release waste directly overboard.



Boater properly discharging his holding tank using a sewage pumpout station.



National Sewage Pumpout Sign directs boaters to pumpout stations.

To discourage such accidental discharges into our waterways, the SMBRC expanded the successful Honey Pot Day Pilot Program, to educate and encourage boaters to responsibly dispose of their waste.

The newly expanded program, Honey Pot Unlimited, offered marinas and yacht clubs in Marina del Rey Harbor free mobile sewage pumpout services for their tenants. Participating boaters enjoyed a convenient solution to this undesirable duty for a trial period of three months.

The program was a great success, substantially raising local awareness about the adverse effects of discharging sewage into our waterways. Sixty-five boaters participated, receiving 189 pumpouts, and ensuring that 7,500 gallons of sewage were properly disposed and did not end up in our Bay.

Honey Pot Day Unlimited was funded by California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways, Clean Vessel Education Program.

SMBRC Scientific Conferences and Publications

SMBRC engages in multidisciplinary research on environmental and social issues affecting Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds and contributes to policies and actions that improve the environmental condition of the Bay. In 2013, the SMBRC expanded its scientific outreach through research; regional, national, and international conferences; and through the publication of three peer-reviewed journal articles.

One peer-reviewed journal paper, "A Regional Survey of the Extent and Magnitude of Eutrophication in Mediterranean Estuaries of Southern California, USA", was published in *Estuaries and Coasts* and authored by K. McLaughlin, M. Sutula, L. Busse, S. Anderson, J. Crooks, R. Dagit, D. Gibson, K. Johnston*, and L. Stratton.

The article summarized a year-long survey of 23 estuaries throughout the Southern California Bight and applied eutrophication assessment indicator thresholds to categorize estuarine condition. Based on the applied frameworks, many of the segments within the estuaries had moderate or worse eutrophic conditions. The conclusions suggest that indicator-based assessments may vary significantly, even on a regional- or habitat-level, as well as being variable on temporal scales.

The Marine Program published two peer-reviewed journal papers presenting their studies of two critically important species of marine invertebrates. "Kelp Forest Habitat Restoration has the Potential to Increase Sea Urchin Gonad Biomass", was published in *Ecosphere* and authored by J. Claisse, J. Williams, T. Ford*, D. Pondella II, B. Meux, and L. Protopapadakis*. The second paper, "Development and Application of Genomic Tools to the Restoration of Green Abalone in Southern California", was published in *Conservation Genetics* and authored by K. Gruenthal, D. Witting, T. Ford*, M. Neuman, J. Williams, D. Pondella II, A. Bird, N. Caruso, J. Hyde, L. Seeb, and W. Larson.

Nine scientific conference presentations by SMBRC staff are highlighted below:



Larger gonads from red urchins support local fisheries and indicate a healthier environment. Small gonads are from urchins in barrens that are unhealthy and of no interest to local fisheries.
Photo: © Tom Boyd Images 2011.



Bay Foundation diver ascends after monitoring restored kelp forest, Pt. Vicente State Marine Conservation Area, Palos Verdes.

- 🦋 "Aerial Monitoring of Ocean Vessels", T. Ford* - Southern California Academy of Sciences;
- 🦋 "Ballona Wetlands: Ecological Reserve: From Fill to Function", K. Johnston* and I. Medel* - Southern California Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry;
- 🦋 "Boater's Guide for I-Pads", V. Ippolito* - States Organization for Boating Access Conference;
- 🦋 "Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) Stratification and Loading in a Muted Salt Marsh", K. Johnston*, J. Dorsey, and J. Saez - Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Conference;
- 🦋 "Functional Assessment of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve: 4-Year Monitoring Summary", K. Johnston* - Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Conference;

- 🦋 "Historical Ecology and Restoration of Urban Estuaries in Los Angeles, CA: From Fill to Function", K. Johnston*, and S. Luce* - Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting;
- 🦋 "Historical Ecology, Public Perception, and Restoration of Urban Estuaries in Los Angeles, CA", S. Luce*, E. Strauss, and K. Johnston* - Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences Conference;
- 🦋 "Malibu Lagoon: A Love Story", S. Luce* and J. Topel* - Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) National Tech Transfer Meeting;
- 🦋 "Palos Verdes Kelp Forest Restoration", T. Ford* - Western Society of Naturalists.

* = SMBRC author or co-author; underline = presenter

In addition to the scientific conferences and publications, all departments of the SMBRC continue outreach to local stakeholder groups, agencies, and interested partner organizations.



A low tide shows algae growth and the thalweg of the main tide channel in the Ballona Wetlands

@TheBayFoundation Extends Reach through #SocialMedia

Social media are an important tool for keeping in touch with our many partners and friends. We are part of this powerful trend and are excited about the growth of our social media presence online in 2013.

We emphasized outreach in significant, curated—and fun!—ways:

- 🦋 Consistent, planned posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, along with attention to daily events and flexibility to respond with relevant and "breaking news" posts.
- 🦋 More visual content - photos and videos either created by us or 'shared' from others including our partner organizations.
- 🦋 More posts about what we are doing in the field.
- 🦋 Posts about news media stories featuring our programs.
- 🦋 Active engagement with people and organizations, drawing return attention and engagement.
- 🦋 Promotions to encourage user engagement and commitment, including: prize promotions highlighting Coastal Cleanup Day and the Clean Bay Restaurant Program, testimonials about the Santa Monica Bay related to our 25th Anniversary celebration, and December's "25 Days to Love the Bay" video stories (all now posted on our YouTube page).



This year we also combined all our different social media pages, focusing on the brand of the SMBRC and The Bay Foundation, and creating a unified presence online. Now our many fans and followers get a taste of our diverse programs and can better appreciate the wide scope of our work. It's working! Our number of followers has grown on all our current social media outlets.

We will continue to expand our social media presence this coming year, and will debut a brand-new website! Meanwhile, be sure to follow us online and help expand our outreach by signing in to any of the social media below:

Facebook: @Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation

Twitter: @SMBRF

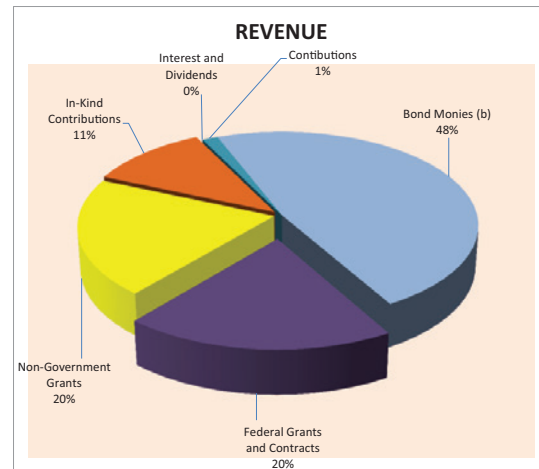
Instagram: @TheBayFoundation

YouTube: Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation

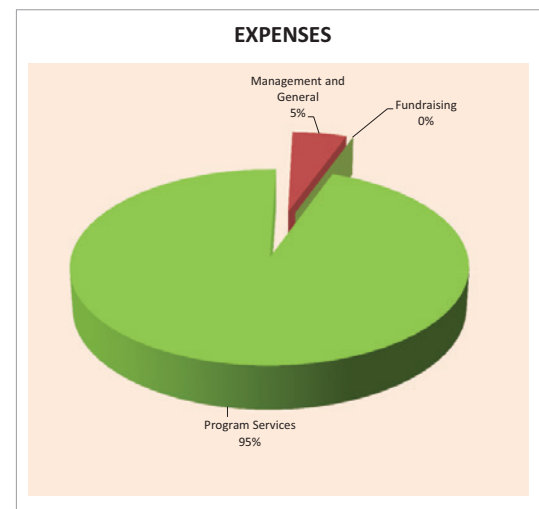
FINANCIAL SUMMARY (JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013)

The Bay Foundation partners with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission to make funds and resources available for restoration of the Santa Monica Bay and its watershed. Provided below is a financial summary that reflects the total resources made available through this partnership for the work of preserving, protecting, and restoring these important natural resources.

	Total	Commission (SMBRC) (a)	Bay Foundation
REVENUES			
Federal Grants and Contracts	847,431	-	847,431
Non-Government Grants	883,989	-	883,989
In-Kind Contributions	482,524	310,542	171,982
Interest and Dividends	-	-	-
Contributions	62,641	-	62,641
Bond Monies (b)	2,068,000	2,068,000	-
Total Revenue and Support	4,344,585	2,378,542	1,966,043
EXPENSES			
Program Services	4,099,876	2,378,542	1,721,334
Management and General	219,200	-	219,200
Fundraising	-	-	-
Total Functional Expenses	4,319,076	2,378,542	1,940,534



FOUNDATION: Assets and Liabilities (c)			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	484,471	220,791	705,262
Investments	9,807	-	9,807
Accounts Receivable	646,852	-	646,852
Contributions Receivable	26,719	-	26,719
Prepaid Expenses	21,325	-	21,325
Total Assets	1,189,174	220,791	1,409,965
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	293,862	-	293,862
Accrued Liabilities	71,867	-	71,867
Deferred Revenue	179,609	-	179,609
Total Liabilities	545,338	-	545,338
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted	643,836	-	643,836
Temporarily Restricted	-	220,791	220,791
Total Net Assets	643,836	220,791	864,627



a) The financial summary provided for the Commission was not prepared by a certified public accountant, but by administrative staff at the Commission. The numbers provided here are intended to provide a general overview of the resources of the Commission and do not necessarily meet GAAP standards.

b) Bond monies are held in account by the CA State Coastal Conservancy and the CA State Water Resources Control Board for projects in Santa Monica Bay. The Bay Commission is responsible for soliciting, selecting, and overseeing the projects funded by these monies. The amount reported here reflects the total amount allocated by the Bay Restoration Commission in FY 13 for projects in the Bay and watershed.

c) Assets and Liabilities are provided for the foundation only.

BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Micheál O'Leary, Chair of the Governing Board, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)

Liz Crosson, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles

State Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District

Sarah Sikich, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal the Bay

Ron Smith, At-Large Member, Director, West Basin MWD

Zev Yaroslavsky, LA County Board of Supervisors (Supervisor, 3rd District)

Rich Ambrose	Technical Advisory Committee, Chair
Richard Bloom	State Assembly Member, 50th District
Dayna Bochco	California Coastal Commission
Mike Bonin	Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council, District 11
Steve Bradford	State Assembly Member, 62nd District
Charlie Caspary	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Grace Chan	LA County Sanitation Districts
Bryant Chesney	NOAA-NMFS Southwest Division
Joe Edmiston	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Gail Farber	LA County Department of Public Works
Eric Garcetti	Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Robert Godfrey	At-Large Member (Marina Del Rey Anglers)
Anthony L. Jackson	California Dept. of Parks & Recreation, Director
John Kelly	LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Jim Knight	South Bay Cities (Rancho Palos Verdes)
John Laird	Natural Resources Agency, Secretary
Molly Martin	US EPA Region IX
John McCamman	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Interim Director
Al Muratsuchi	State Assembly Member, 66th District
Daniel Murphy	LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Laurie Newman	President, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation
Ann Notthoff	California State Coastal Conservancy
Fran Pavley	State Senator, 27th District
Matt Rodriguez	California Environmental Protection Agency, Secretary
Marvin Sachse	Public Member (Business/Economic Interest), Brash Industries
John Sibert	Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Fran Spivy-Weber	Secretary for Environmental Protection (SWRCB)
Dennis Washburn	At-Large Member (SM Mountains RCD)
Enrique Zaldivar	LA City Department of Public Works



Volunteers and staff celebrate at end of 9th Annual MDR Coastal Cleanup Day event.

STAFF

Shelley Luce	Executive Director
Guangyu Wang	Deputy Director / Senior Scientist
Tom Ford	Director of Marine Programs
Karina Johnston	Director of Watershed Programs
Grace Lee	Director of Outreach Programs
Scott Valor	Government Relations Director
Julie Du Brow	Communications Specialist
Rodney Abbott	Field and Research Technician
Mark Abramson	Senior Watershed Advisor
Carrie Baldwin	Outreach Program Assistant
Heather Burdick	Marine Biologist / Program Manager
Diana Hurlbert	Senior Project Manager
Victoria Ippolito	Grants and Programs Coordinator
Michelle Staffield	Water Quality Programs Manager
Ivan Medel	Field and Research Coordinator
Charles Piechowski	Field and Research Technician
Lia Protopapadakis	Marine Scientist / Project Manager
Jack Topel	Environmental Scientist / Project Manager
Marcelo Villagomez	Administrative Manager
Maria Wong	Laboratory Technician

